



Sheila Dixon

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Mayor Dixon Announces Beginning of Public-Private Employment Training Program

Baltimore, MD (July 20, 2007) – Mayor Sheila Dixon's Office of Employment Development and Sherwin Williams will kick-off the "Home Work" residential painter training program in Baltimore on Monday, July 23, 2007. This ten-day program will provide classroom and hands-on training to city residents in need of reliable long-term employment.

"The Home Work initiative will provide much needed training to residents looking to improve their lives," said Mayor Dixon. "I am proud to foster public-private training programs because of the tremendous benefit it has for both the individuals and the corporations."

Sherwin Williams is partnering with the Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) to provide a unique residential painters training session for more than a dozen City residents. Sherwin Williams is a corporate leader engaged in the manufacturing, distribution and sale of paint and paint-related products to professional, industrial commercial and residential customers. As part of Sherwin Williams' community outreach effort, the purpose of the program is to take people in economically disadvantaged areas and training them for entry level positions with local paint contractors.

"We believe there is a strong demand for skilled professional painters," said Bob Wells, vice president of communications of Sherwin Williams. "This is more than just a training program, it is an employment program."

MOED identified the interested Baltimore City residents through its One-Stop Career Center Network. The training and hands-on painting will occur at MOED's Academy for College and Career Exploration (ACCE) High School. Sherwin Williams' curriculum includes paint basics, application and applicators, troubleshooting, safety, HUD Lead Safe Work Practices, faux finishing, and hands-on application. As part of the training, participants are able to explore a more in depth training opportunity through the Painters & Allied Trades District Council # 51, a local union in Baltimore City offering formal painter apprenticeships.

“MOED is in the business of helping businesses identify and train City residents,” said Susan Tagliaferro, Business Liaison for MOED. “This is an opportunity to indirectly contribute to the economy through this distinctive training session,” said Tagliaferro.

Sherwin Williams understands the importance of having trained professionals to paint area businesses and homes, which is why the company asked the assistance of the City’s workforce development agency to coordinate the project. Sherwin Williams started the pilot program in 2003 and has provided training to residents of Buffalo, Cleveland and San Francisco. Sherwin Williams provided more than \$10K in painting supplies for the training session. The trainees who graduate from this session will be presented with all the tools and supplies needed to begin their work as residential painters.

For more information about customized training programs provided by the MOED, call Rosalind Howard, Program Manager, Business Services at 410-396-9035.

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